



ANTH705

Race, Nation and Ethnicity

S2 Evening 2019

Dept of Anthropology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

Chris Vasantkumar

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AHH North, W32

Tuesdays 11-1 and by appointment

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

ANTH805

Unit description

This unit targets students interested in the contemporary nature of states, nations, and other “imagined communities” with a focus on issues of race, ethnicity, mobility, territoriality and citizenship. This unit will explore the effects of the increased mobility of populations, economic globalization and expanding technological interconnection on national and trans-national communities. It will specify the relationship between nation, empire and diaspora with regard to the politics of multiculturalism, territoriality and belonging, and will pay particular attention to the particular place of vulnerable mobile groups: refugees, asylum seekers, deportees, and migrant workers in the contemporary national order of things.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Develop familiarity with the history and evolution of anthropological approaches to race, culture, ethnicity, nationalism and transnationalism

Develop the ability to assess received understandings of race, ethnicity and nation using anthropologically informed holistic and relativistic descriptions of cultural practices.

Critically evaluate the validity of popular understandings of racial categories, ethnic groups, and national belonging using anthropologically informed approaches

Apply a critical understanding of race, culture, ethnicity and nationalism to real world situations and phenomena.

Improve writing skills, especially structuring of argument, organization, and use of supporting evidence and data.

General Assessment Information

How to Submit Your Work With the exception of DPGs and the Research Essay Precis, all assessments must be submitted via turnitin no later than 11:59pm on the due date.

University Late Assessment Policy Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Word Limits You will be deducted 1 percentage point for each 25 words (for short essay)/ 100 words (for research essay) by which you **exceed the word limit**. Please take the word limit very seriously and try to make your argument concisely and clearly. It is unfair to fellow students if one person has much more space to argue their case while another student sticks firmly to the length guidelines. The word limit is designed to level the essay-writing field, so to speak. **You must provide a word count beneath the title when you submit your work.** If you fail to provide a word count, you will be deducted 1 percentage point and the assessor will estimate length and mark accordingly. **The word limit excludes end-of-text references but it includes footnotes and in-text citations.**

Failure to reach the minimum word count for an assessment will result in a penalty determined by calculating the percentage of the required word total you were able to complete. For example, if you wrote an essay 734 words in length for an assessment with a minimum word count of 1000 words, your mark would be penalized by 26.6% because you only completed 73.4% of the assessment. Example: your work would have received a 77D had it been 1000 words long, you wrote 734 words, your final mark would be $77 * 0.734 = 56$ P.

Plagiarism You are responsible for reading the University's definition of plagiarism and its academic honesty policy. You must cite others' words and ideas appropriately. In this class I use *turnitin* to detect plagiarism and I take it very, very seriously. **Plagiarism may result in a mark of zero for that assignment and, depending on the severity of the plagiarism, may also result in failing the unit and/or referral to the University Discipline Committee.**

No consideration for lost work or technology issues It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy (electronic or otherwise) of all written work submitted for each unit. No consideration will be given to claims of 'lost work' or technology issues no matter what the circumstances.

Returning assignments Student work will usually be marked and returned within two to three weeks of receipt. Students who hand their work in before the due date will not have it returned

early. Do not ask when marking will be finished. If you turned in your assignment late, it will likely be marked later.

Extensions and Special Consideration:

Please view the Special Consideration Policy at: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>

All Disruption to Studies notifications are to be made online via the University's Ask MQ system. Remember that you can **miss one seminar** without having to complete the Disruption to Studies process. This allowance is to reduce the documentation burden for you and your convenor.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Class Preparation: DPG	15%	No	Continuing
Participation in seminar	20%	No	Continuing
Leading Seminar Discussion	10%	No	Twice/semester
Short Essay	15%	No	1 September via turnitin
Research Essay	40%	No	12 November via turnitin

Class Preparation: DPG

Due: **Continuing**

Weighting: **15%**

Each week, you must fill out a Discussion Preparation Guide and bring it to class. A DPG template will be distributed in the first seminar meeting.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop familiarity with the history and evolution of anthropological approaches to race, culture, ethnicity, nationalism and transnationalism
- Improve writing skills, especially structuring of argument, organization, and use of supporting evidence and data.

Participation in seminar

Due: **Continuing**

Weighting: **20%**

Each student is expected to participate actively and constructively in the seminar discussion.

Seminar attendance is mandatory for all students.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Develop the ability to assess received understandings of race, ethnicity and nation using anthropologically informed holistic and relativistic descriptions of cultural practices.
- Apply a critical understanding of race, culture, ethnicity and nationalism to real world situations and phenomena.

Leading Seminar Discussion

Due: **Twice/semester**

Weighting: **10%**

Each student is responsible for leading the seminar discussion twice during the semester. (Dates for each person's turns leading discussion will be worked out during first class meeting.)

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Critically evaluate the validity of popular understandings of racial categories, ethnic groups, and national belonging using anthropologically informed approaches
- Apply a critical understanding of race, culture, ethnicity and nationalism to real world situations and phenomena.

Short Essay

Due: **1 September via turnitin**

Weighting: **15%**

Write a short paper (1250-1750 words, double-spaced) on an assigned topic (see iLearn for topics)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop the ability to assess received understandings of race, ethnicity and nation using anthropologically informed holistic and relativistic descriptions of cultural practices.
- Critically evaluate the validity of popular understandings of racial categories, ethnic groups, and national belonging using anthropologically informed approaches

- Improve writing skills, especially structuring of argument, organization, and use of supporting evidence and data.

Research Essay

Due: **12 November via turnitin**

Weighting: **40%**

A research paper (3000-3500 words, double-spaced) analyzing a racial, ethnic or (trans-)nationalism-related issue or controversy in contemporary Australian society in light of the material we have covered in the unit. You have wide latitude in terms of the focus that you select as long as you bring it into productive conversation with the unit's themes, concerns and materials. Significant independent research is required for this assessment. Using Harvard reference style recommended. Students may pursue ethnographic or library-based topics, but topics must be selected in consultation with the convenor early in the semester.

This assessment has 4 parts:

1. Precis (1-2 page outline of proposed topic): due in Seminar, week 4 -- 2.5% of unit grade
2. Working Bibliography (correctly formatted list of 20-30 sources with the most important 5-10 annotated with 1-2 descriptive paragraphs each): due in Seminar, week 8 -- 2.5%
3. 10 minute presentation of paper topic: due in Seminar, week 13 -- 10%
4. The essay itself: due 12 November -- 25%

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply a critical understanding of race, culture, ethnicity and nationalism to real world situations and phenomena.

Delivery and Resources

Readings will be available on electronic reserve. See iLearn for full details. Topics to be covered include the following:

Week	Topic
1	Introduction: What Color are You?
2	Race--Key Concepts
3	Race--Contemporary Complications
4	Race & Culture: Anthropology's Interventions and Misadventures

5	Culture, Authenticity, and Recognition
6	Culture on Trial: Identity in Mashpee
7	Enter Ethnicity
Mid-semester Recess	
8	Nations and Other Imagined Communities
9	Refugees and Migrants in the National Order of Things
10	Racialized Spaces in Contemporary Australia
11	The Citizen and the Terrorist: Racial and Religious Others in Our Midst
12	#blacklivesmatter and Global Anti-racist Activism
13	Student Presentations

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(http](#)

[s://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central)).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Develop familiarity with the history and evolution of anthropological approaches to race, culture, ethnicity, nationalism and transnationalism
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- Critically evaluate the validity of popular understandings of racial categories, ethnic groups, and national belonging using anthropologically informed approaches
- Apply a critical understanding of race, culture, ethnicity and nationalism to real world situations and phenomena.
- Improve writing skills, especially structuring of argument, organization, and use of supporting evidence and data.

Assessment tasks

- Class Preparation: DPG
- Participation in seminar
- Leading Seminar Discussion
- Short Essay
- Research Essay

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

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- Critically evaluate the validity of popular understandings of racial categories, ethnic groups, and national belonging using anthropologically informed approaches
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Assessment tasks

- Class Preparation: DPG
- Participation in seminar
- Leading Seminar Discussion
- Short Essay
- Research Essay

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Improve writing skills, especially structuring of argument, organization, and use of supporting evidence and data.

Assessment task

- Short Essay

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Improve writing skills, especially structuring of argument, organization, and use of supporting evidence and data.

Assessment tasks

- Class Preparation: DPG
- Short Essay

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

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- Critically evaluate the validity of popular understandings of racial categories, ethnic groups, and national belonging using anthropologically informed approaches
- Apply a critical understanding of race, culture, ethnicity and nationalism to real world situations and phenomena.

Assessment tasks

- Class Preparation: DPG
- Participation in seminar
- Leading Seminar Discussion
- Short Essay
- Research Essay